

From: Matthew Jones
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/13/02 1:56pm
Subject: Comments on the settlement between the USDOJ and Microsoft

I am writing to you to state my disappointment at the proposed settlement with Microsoft in the antitrust case. I cannot see anyway that this settlement punishes the convicted corporate felon Microsoft, improves competition or helps the consumer.

I work in computer industry, although not with a competitor of Microsoft. However I work on an embedded Internet browser. Because Microsoft Internet Explorer is so pervasive (a monopoly) and because it has undocumented extensions it is virtually impossible to produce a browser that can compete. While it might appear that web browser technologies such as HTML and HTTP are standards the reality is that they are so inadequate and incomplete (and ignored) that the only way to be assured that the page "renders correctly" is to try to guess at what IE does. This forces all competition to chase IE. There is no standard for validating HTML therefore the de-facto validation is "looks good in IE." This is only one example of the problems with Microsoft's monopoly.

I believe that the remedy suggested by judge Jackson makes far more sense than the current proposed settlement. Furthermore some of the parts of proposed settlement will only reenforce Microsoft's monopoly, especially the part about donating software.

I suggest the eventual punishment for Microsoft include:

1. Breaking up Microsoft into three separate competing companies. One for operating systems, another for applications and a third for online services such as MSN, Passport, Hotmail etc.
2. Microsoft should be fined billions of dollars for monopoly behavior and producing bug ridden security inept software.
3. PC manufacturers should be forced to provide users with an alternative for pre-installed operating systems. For example, customers should be able to request that Linux is pre-installed.
4. Microsoft operating systems should be required to ship with the latest version of the Java runtime environment from Sun Microsystems.

The current settlement does nothing to benefit this country, the computer industry or consumers. Therefore I urge you to discard it. I also urge you to take the hardest line in punishing Microsoft to the maximum possible.

I would be happy to provide additional information if required.

Sincerely,

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